What is claimed and desired to be secured by United States Letters Patent is:

1.   In a system having at least one application, a method for executing a search from within the at least one application, the method comprising the steps of:

    selecting one or more search terms within the at least one application;

    activating the one or more search terms;

    performing a search based on the one or more search terms; and

    returning search results to the at least one application.

2.   A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the at least one application is selected from the group of: word processor; spreadsheet, database, image processor; web browser; text recognition; email client, and operating system.

3.   A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the step of selecting further comprises the step of automatically selecting the one or more search terms pursuant to pre-defined rules.

4.   A method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of configuring the search.

5.   A method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of searching according to a context of the one or more search terms.

6.   A method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of storing the search results.

7.　　A method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of presenting the search results to the user without the user having to exit the at least one application.

8.　　A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the search is performed without the user having to exit the at least one application.

9.　　A method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of the manipulating, by a user, the search results.

10.　　A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 1.

Docket No. 15184.2

11.   In a computer system connected to a network, a method for performing a search over the network, the method comprising the steps of:

selecting search data within at least one application in the computer system;

activating the search data;

performing a search on the search data from within the at least one application such that the user is not required to open another application;

returning search results to a user within the at least one application, wherein the user views the search results within the at least one application.

12.   A method as defined in claim 11, wherein the search data comprises text.

13.   A method as defined in claim 11, wherein the step of activating further comprises the step of configuring the search.

14.   A method as defined in claim 11, wherein the step of activating further comprises the step of selecting at least one search location.

15.   A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 11.

Docket No. 15184.2

16.   In a computer system having access to one or more applications, the computer system connected to a network, a method for searching over the network, the method comprising the steps of:

within an application, previewing data within at least one application;

selecting a portion of the previewed data as search terms;

performing a search based on the portion of the previewed data without user input;

caching search results from the search, wherein the search results are readily available to a user.

17.   A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 16.

Docket No. 15184.2